GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2918
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
COIR AS AGRICULTURE PRODUCT UNDER WTO .
Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has received requests from the States producing Coir products to declare Coir products as an agricultural product under WTO agreement; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) and (d) : Yes Sir. The Government has received representations from the Government of Kerala for inclusion of coir under the scope of the Agreement on Agriculture(AoA) of the World Trade Organisaion(WTO).The Government has alrady filed its negotiating proposals with the WTO for including products such as coir for the rationalisation of product coverage in the AoA.Consistent with the elements and principles agreed thus far in the negotiations, the food secutity livelihood security and rural development needs of agriculture producers in developing countries like india will be taken into account in the final outcome of the negotiations.

Sensitivities across non agricultural products will also be factored into the position and strategy for negotiationasadopted by India in the negotiations on market access in respect of non agricultural products through instrumentalities such as specific flexibilities and less than full reciprocity in tariff reduction commitments of developing countries as compared to those of developed countries.